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ABSTRACT

Today, more than 70 years after its publication, the novel "The Great Gatsby" seems as fresh and pertinent to American life as it did in the 1920s. The social, cultural, and historical milieu of the 1920s reflected in its pages is not so very different from that of today. This interdisciplinary collection of commentary and collateral materials will enrich the reader's understanding of those times and their influence on F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel. This casebook includes a wide variety of primary documents that capture the flavor of the era and its notorious and flamboyant players, such as newspaper stories, first-person accounts, and congressional testimony from the scandals of the 1920s. The casebook is divided into the following sections: Introduction; The Magic of "The Great Gatsby"; A Literary Analysis: What Makes "The Great Gatsby" Great?; "The Great Gatsby" and F. Scott Fitzgerald: Intertwining Life and Work; Why Be Honest? The Scandals of the 1920s; The Woman Questions: Changes during the 1920s; Why Not Be Rich? Money in the 1920s; and "The Great Gatsby" Then and Now. Each section of the casebook contains study questions, topics for research papers and class discussion, and lists of further reading for examining the themes and issues raised by the novel. (NKA)